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relaxing the too rigid notions of morphology which are still prevalent. While constantly calling attention to the variation which occurs in nature and which may also be brought about artificially, the author also recognizes that environment is not the only factor in plant development, but that heredity is equally important. Representing as it does the work which is being carried on in the author's laboratory, the book has the freshness of research, and is full of suggestions to those engaged in morphological investigation.

Those who have read the first part will be glad to learn that the present volume is not so difficult. An early English translation is announced.—CHARLES J. CHAMBERLAIN.

MINOR NOTICES.

THE SIXTH FASCICLE of Wildeman and Durand's *Illustrations de la flore du Congo* has appeared recently, containing plates 61 to 72 inclusive. This elaborate work, with its very handsome plates, needs no further commendation than has been given already in this journal.—J. M. C.

THE SECOND FASCICLE of Schumann's *Blühende Kakteen* (Iconographia Cactacearum) has appeared recently. It contains descriptions and beautiful colored illustrations of *Mamillaria Wissmannii* Hildmann, *M. raphidacantha* Lem., *Echinocactus horripilus* Lem., and *E. Mathssonii* Berge. The publisher is J. Neumann in Neudamm, and the price is four marks.—J. M. C.

THE SECOND VOLUME of *Primitiae Florae Costaricensis*, under the editorship of H. Pittier, bearing date 1898–1900, has appeared in seven fascicles. The collaborators are J. Donnell Smith (Polypetalae and Gamopetalae), Casimir DeCandolle (Piperaceae), G. Lindau (Acanthaceae), F. Pax (Euphorbiaceae), and A. Engler (Araceae). Numerous new species are described, but the only new genus published is *Kolobohilus* (Acanthaceae).—J. M. C.

THREE FASCICLES of the first volume of Engler and Prantl's *Nat. Pflanzenfamilien* have appeared recently, as follows: 204 contains the conclusion of fossil Filicales and the Sphenophyllales by H. Potonié, and the beginning of the living Equisetales by R. Sadebeck; 205 contains the conclusion of the living Equisetales by R. Sadebeck, the fossil forms by H. Potonié, and the beginning of the Lycopodiaceae by E. Pritzel; 206 contains the conclusion of the Lycopodiaceae and the Psilotaceae by E. Pritzel, the Psilotaceae by H. Potonié, and the beginning of Selaginellaceae by G. Hieronymus.—J. M. C.

A. M. FERGUSON (Twelfth Ann. Rep. Mo. Bot. Gard. 33–73. *pls. 4–31.* 16 F 1901) has published a revision of the species of *Croton* found in the United States. It seems to be a painstaking and judicious piece of work, and deals with a genus which greatly needed revision. Thirty-three species and varieties are recognized, all of which are illustrated. The conservative spirit of the work is indicated by the fact that in a genus of great possibilities only one new species is described, and five forms are made new varieties.

It is certainly true that the author's conception of a species differs from that which is rapidly becoming current, and that he still has some belief in its power to vary.—J. M. C.

MR. HERMANN VON SCHRENK (Twelfth Ann. Rep. Mo. Bot. Gard. 21–23. *pls. 1–3.* 10 F 1901) has described fully a disease of *Robinia Pseudacacia* L. caused by *Polyporus rimosus* Berk. The fungus attacks the locust after some heartwood has been formed in the larger branches, and from this time on the mycelium may be found in the heartwood. Access is obtained through wounds, so that a proper treatment of wounds will ward off the disease. Curiously enough the fungus, although growing in what is regarded as dead tissues, does not grow in the wood after it is cut from the living tree, and hence diseased wood when used for posts does not continue to rot. Whether such a fungus is to be regarded as a parasite or a saprophyte, therefore, becomes an interesting question.—J. M. C.

THE FIRST THREE PARTS of Engler's *Pflanzenreich* have appeared. The general purpose and method of this great work were announced in this journal for last December (30:432. 1900), so that it only remains to note the contents of the parts as they appear. The families of spermatophytes to be presented are 280 in number. Part 1 (*M* 2.40) is by K. Schumann, and contains the Musaceae, the forty-fifth family, the six genera including eighty species. Part 2 (*M* 2) contains the eighth and tenth families, Typhaceae and Sparganiaceae, and is by P. Graebner. Each family is represented by a single genus, Typha containing nine species and Sparganium fifteen. Part 3 (*M* 5.60) contains the ninth family, Pandanaceae, and is by O. Warburg. He recognizes 219 species, 156 of which belongs to Pandanus. The publisher is Wilhelm Engelmann of Leipzig.—J. M. C.

BOTANICAL ACTIVITY in Vermont is indicated by the series of "Contributions to the Botany of Vermont," which has now reached its eighth number. The titles of the eight contributions are as follows: A list of the mosses of Vermont, with analytical keys to the genera and species, by A. J. GROUT (March 15, 1898); A partial list of the parasitic fungi of Vermont, by W. A. ORTON (September 1898); A preliminary list of the Hepaticae of Vermont, by CLIFTON D. HOWE (January 1899); Supplement to the list of mosses growing in the state of Vermont, by A. J. GROUT (January 1899); The trees of Vermont, by ANNA M. CLARK, with notes on the trees of Burlington and vicinity, by L. R. JONES (December 1899); A second partial list of the parasitic fungi of Vermont, by W. A. ORTON (December 1899); and Flora of Vermont, a list of the fern and seed plants growing without cultivation, by EZRA BRAINERD, L. R. JONES, and W. W. EGGLESTON (December 15, 1900). The last publication enumerates 1330 indigenous species.—J. M. C.

A FLORA of the German possessions (Kaiser Wilhelm's Land) in New Guinea (or Papua) and the adjacent islands has been published by Drs. Karl

Schumann and Karl Lauterbach.[2] Descriptions are given of numerous new and critical species, but those better known are merely named and their distribution given. The book begins with the Myxomycetes and follows the sequence of Engler and Prantl. This bringing together of a great amount of scattered material makes the book an admirable compendium of information concerning the plants of the "South Seas." The new genera described are as follows: *Dammera* (Palmaceae), *Scleromelum* (Santalaceae), *Lauterbachia* (Monimiaceae), *Macropsychanthus* (Leguminosae), *Syndyophyllum* (Euphorbiaceae), *Gertrudia* (Flacourtiaceae), *Xenodendron* (Sonneratiaceae), *Bamlera* (Melastomaceae), *Kentrochrosia* (Apocynaceae), and *Airosperma* (Rubiaceae).—J. M. C.

A VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION to the literature of special diseases of plants is the recent bulletin of the Division of Vegetable Physiology and Pathology on *Peach leaf curl*.[3] The bulletin is divided into eleven chapters. The first is introductory and treats of the distribution and origin of the disease and of the losses caused by it, which are estimated to reach at least $3,000,000 annually. Next is taken up the nature of the disease itself, which is caused by the fungus *Exoascus deformans*. It is shown that the perennial mycelium of this fungus is responsible for only about 2 per cent. of the infections each spring, the others being due to spores which have remained over winter in the crevices of the bark and between the bud scales. In the next five chapters the history of the various methods of treatment is discussed, and the plans of the experiments for the prevention of the disease and the results in saving of foliage and fruit are given in great detail. It is shown that from 95 to 98 per cent. of the injury to the foliage can be prevented by treating the trees, while still dormant, with various sprays, the best being a Bordeaux mixture containing five pounds each of copper sulfate and lime, and forty-five gallons of water. One chapter is devoted to a discussion of the preparation, use, and character of the different sprays used, another to the methods of applying the sprays, and still another to a description of the various substances used in preparing them. The sprays are shown to be successful only when applied while the tree is dormant, preferably one to three weeks before the flower buds open. The final chapter is devoted to a comparison of the susceptibility of different peach varieties to the disease, and to a discussion of the treatment of nursery stock. A short summary concludes the bulletin.—ERNST A. BESSEY.

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[2] Die Flora der deutschen Schutzgebiete in der Südsee. Small 4to, pp. xvi + 613. with map and 22 plates. Leipzig: Gebrüder Borntraeger. 1901. *M* 40 unbound, *M* 45 bound.

[3] PIERCE, NEWTON B.: Peach leaf curl: its nature and treatment. Bulletin 20. Division of Vegetable Physiology and Pathology, U. S. Department of Agriculture, 8vo, pp. 204. *figs. 10, pls. 30.* Washington: Government Printing Office. 1900.